

## WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION

Meeting minutes - September 11, 2002

Riverside Park

Cass County, Logansport, IN

### **Voting members present:**

Allen County-Ron James  
Carroll County-Teresa Maxwell  
Cass County-Janet Fawley  
DNR-Steve Morris  
Fountain County-Ron Howard  
Huntington County-Mike Mettler  
Parke County-John Isaacs  
Sullivan County-John Gettinger  
Tippecanoe Co.-Norman (Lucky) Neiburger  
Vermillion County-Mike Craig  
Vigo County-Keith Ruble  
Wabash County-Ernie Passwater  
Warren County-Louise Jewell

### **Proxies:**

Adams County-Norman Neiburger  
Knox County-Steve Morris  
Posey County-Ron Howard

### **Non-voting members present:**

### **Commission and DNR staff present:**

Susan Benner-WHRCC Exec. Director  
Cynthia Webb-DNR

### **Others present:**

Susan Ruble-Vigo County  
Don Jewell-Warren County  
Carolyn Howard-Fountain County  
Bernie Dahl-Banks of the Wabash  
Dan McCain-Delphi Historic Trails & Canal  
Richard Vonnegut-Hoosier Rails-to-Trails  
Thomas Castaldi-Allen County Historian  
Don Werling-Allen County  
Judy Buttice – Arrowhead RC&D

### **Voting members not present:**

Gibson County  
Jay County  
Miami County  
Wells County

### **Non-voting members not present:**

DNR Historic Preservation & Arch.  
Dept. of Commerce-Tourism  
Dept. of Environmental Management  
Dept. of Transportation

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Lucky Neiburger called the meeting to order at 1:05. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of the September 11, 2001 victims. Attendees introduced themselves.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JULY 10, 2002 MEETING MINUTES**

In the July 10, 2002 minutes in the President's Report the statement "He is at the Wabash Riverfest being held at the Tapawingo Park", should read "He is preparing for the Wabash Riverfest being held at the Tapawingo Park". Also in the Executive Director's Report, it was incorrect to refer to Keith Huffman as president of the Upper Wabash Basin Commission. The report should read "Keith Huffman was in attendance at this meeting". Keith Ruble made the motion to approve the corrected minutes. Mike Mettler seconded and motion passed.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

No report

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Susan Benner asked the commission to cover the \$10 fee for the Riverfest exhibit booth. Janet Fawley moved that the commission pay the Riverfest exhibit cost. Ron Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed. Susan also presented the information and application for membership to Indiana Parks and Recreation Association.

Susan has a calendar on the Wabash River Heritage Corridor Commission website now. She will try to keep it updated with upcoming events. Commission members need to turn in any event they want on the calendar of events.

Susan will be working with the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission to put together a 205j grant through IDEM for the creation of a Watershed Management Plan for Jay, Wells, Adams and Huntington counties. These counties are part of the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission. Keith Huffman, Barbara Elliott, and Matt Jarvis will be also assisting the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission with the grant process.

Susan is also creating an inventory of projects and interested parties along the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County. This project is for the Wabash Coordinating Committee, a subcommittee of the Wabash River Parkway Commission.

Susan reported on the Corridor Management Plan meetings. The sign in sheet indicates that 11 people attended the Fort Wayne meeting, 23 attended in Logansport and 11 were present in Vincennes. At the Vincennes meeting there were two radio stations and a television station reporting on the meeting. Thank you letters were sent to Allen County Parks and Recreation Department, George Rogers Clark National Historic Site, and Knox County Parks and Recreation Department for their assistance with the Corridor Management Plan Meetings.

Susan showed the commission a brochure of the Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Trails and the map that Mike Martin created for access points along the Wabash River. Susan is asking for input on what the Commission would like to do with the water trails concept.

## **COMMISSION FINANCIAL REPORT**

Steve Morris passed out printouts of commission financial reports. Of the \$75,000 appropriated for 2002-2003, \$41,250 has been allotted to the commission so far and \$645.96 has been spent. The commission continues to pay for the executive director's contract from encumbered 2001-2002 funds. Ron Howard indicated he would like a printout of these financial reports at each meeting.

## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Commission's first education symposium, entitled "Teach the Wabash River", will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> in Merom. Tom Straw, Matt Jarvis and Keith Ruble will be giving presentations at the symposium. John Gettinger mentioned there has been good attendance at the Education Committee meetings. Susan Benner has sent out press releases for Teach the Wabash. The invitation packet sent out included a map to Merom and the agenda for the symposium. Susan reported that 21 educators/youth organizers were registered and planning to attend.

Susan Benner will be attending an open house for teachers being sponsored by the Indiana State Museum. The WRHCC will have a booth that will allow us to meet teachers from around the state and highlight our symposium. This open house is providing us free access to the museum and IMAX. John Gettinger and Susan Benner will be representing the WRHCC at the booth. John mentioned how easy Susan Benner has made everything. Ron Howard suggested using the Covered Bridge Festival for WRHCC displays and getting Wabash River information out to the public.

## **BANKS OF THE WABASH REPORT**

Bernie Dahl reported for Banks of the Wabash (BOW). Banks of the Wabash (BOW) coordinated another successful Walking Weekend in August. Banks of the Wabash has a new website. The website will list upcoming events and will include BOW newsletters. The Banks of the Wabash newsletter has a new format and contains new information. Banks of the Wabash participated in the Riverfest. Banks of the Wabash will be at the WRHCC management plan committee meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Corridor management plan committee**

The corridor management plan meetings are scheduled for November 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>. Due to conflicts that have arisen, Steve Morris suggested the meeting dates to be changed to November 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>. Ron James made the motion the meetings be held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and the 21<sup>st</sup> and John Gettinger seconded the motion. Motion passed.

It was decided that the regular commission meeting should be held on the same day as the corridor management plan meeting. Steve Morris made the motion for the commission meeting to be held November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 pm and Janet Fawley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Steve Morris reported that Rory Robinson was disappointed that few community leaders were present at the meetings. Rory has suggested that sometime during the planning process we hold additional daytime corridor management planning meetings for community leaders. Rory has all the notes from the meetings and will put together a report. The report will be made available to everyone.

### **Corridor brochure**

With a grant secured from Department of Natural Resources –Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology the reprinting of the Wabash River brochures is now possible. Modern Graphics has been chosen for the printing of the brochures. Susan Benner reported she has made the requested changes and the brochure is at the printers and will be ready by September 30<sup>th</sup>. The total cost for printing 100,000 brochures is \$16,221.00. Lucky Neiburger would like to review the brochure before it is printed. Janet Fawley thanked Susan Benner for finding a grant to pay for printing of the brochures.

### **Petty cash account**

There was discussion about trying to establish a petty cash account. Lucky Neiburger is going to pursue trying to get a petty cash account for the commission.

### **Commission approval of expenditures**

Motion was made by Ron James to establish a budget line item of \$1,000.00 a year, for commission purchases/expenditures other than travel of \$100.00 or less per purchase/expense, and that these disbursements be made with the executive director's or president's approval and approval by DNR and state board of accounts. John Gettinger seconded the motion. Motion passed.

There was discussion about travel expenditures. Ron James made the motion that the commission approves in advance all travel expenditures, including lodging if 4 hours or more from home, for travel to and from commission meetings, planning meetings and committee meetings for either the regular commission member or an alternate representative. Janet Fawley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Other items**

There was discussion about Susan doing work for the Wabash River Parkway Commission. Janet Fawley believes that Susan Benner should research grants but she should not be writing grants for individual counties. Ron Howard agreed saying that Susan should be used as a resource person only, nothing beyond that. Keith Ruble suggested checking the job description, the one used to hire her, and look at what it says. Lucky Neiburger remarked that everyone was entitled to use Susan's time. Ron James read the duties from the job description.

## **BREAK**

### **SPEAKER**

Judy Buttice from Arrowhead Resource Conservation and Development described the Arrowhead RC&D's rafting program for school children.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Suggestions for future speakers**

Mike Craig suggested Lyn Hartman, Hoosier Riverwatch Coordinator.

Dan McCain suggested Tom Castaldi, Allen County Historian.

Keith Ruble suggested having someone speak about water quality.

Susan Benner suggested Robert Swihart from Purdue University to speak about the Upper Wabash Ecosystem project.

Janet Fawley suggested Jon Marshall from the Division of Fish and Wildlife to speak about Becoming an Outdoorswoman.

#### **Letters sent/Letters received**

The Welcome Center at Lanesville on I-64, contacted Susan Benner about needing more Wabash River Heritage Corridor brochures. Susan mailed them out on 9-10-2002.

Steve Morris reported receiving email from David Elkins, confirming the commission meeting to be held in January at Cayuga Station. Arrangements have been made for a morning tour of the station and a presentation on bald eagles followed by lunch.

#### **Other items**

Lucky Neiburger urged members to contact their legislators encourage them to support funding for the commission and corridor projects in the upcoming legislative session. Lucky suggested the commission consider some type of get together such as the Hoosier Heartland Highway golf outing that was participated in by Senator Weatherwax. Janet Fawley suggested commission members be prepared to discuss goals of the commission with their legislators. It was suggested that Susan Benner help coordinate legislative efforts.

#### **Announcements**

Janet Fawley announced the Little Turtle Waterway trail is to be dedicated on September 21<sup>st</sup>, at 10 am.

Dan McCain announced volunteer trail building events in Delphi on September 28<sup>th</sup> and October 19<sup>th</sup>. Dan also announced that work was progressing on the canal interpretive center.

Mike Craig announced a national hovercraft event was taking place on the Wabash River and will include a hovercraft trip between Terre Haute and Lafayette.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Keith Ruble moved for adjournment. Adjourned.

Next Meeting-November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 PM in Tippecanoe County, location to be announced.